I have been Dean at Nyack College, D.C. for two years. I am excited about what is happening and the growing influence of this college, here in D.C. and in New York. I want to report briefly on what is happening on the New York campuses and then focus on our life here at suite 700 on North Capitol Street and our wonderful community of students, alumni, faculty and administrators.

Nyack – N.Y. is rising! It was a great pleasure to attend the Nyack College Commencement in New York on May 8. We are a truly seeking to honor Jesus Christ as a global campus engaged in academic excellence, intentional diversity, personal transformation and social relevance. These core values are very much on the heart of President Mike Scales and the rest of the team, based at the beautiful residential campus in Nyack, just north of New York City. Please pray for a “Miracle in Manhattan,” that is a permanent home in New York City. Our Manhattan campus is bursting at the seams with 1300 students and we could expand dramatically if we had a larger facility.

Nyack – D.C. is rising! Our B.S. in Organizational Management and M.S. in Organizational Leadership continue to be the cornerstones of our program here in D.C. I am so impressed with our faculty and what I observe in the classrooms of both programs and in the thesis defenses for the M.S. students. Our faculty have a wonderful heart for our students. And, who can beat the outstanding leadership of Jennifer Merrill and Dr. Karen LeShore?

When I arrived here two years ago I found myself asking the question, “What does it mean to be here in Washington, D.C. in this place, at this time?”

— Dr. Richard Gathro, Dean & Special Assistant to the President

— continued on page 3
The Institute for Public Service & Policy Development (I.P.S.) welcomes its first two honorary co-chairs. Dr. KunMo Chung is a leading scientist and educator from South Korea who has twice served as Korean Minister of Science & Technology and was a presidential candidate. Tony Hall, former Congressman and Ambassador, is currently Managing Director of the Alliance to End Hunger. The I.P.S. plans to have a long-term emphasis on community development, international development and faith and public policy, with hopes and plans to offer a graduate degree. Dr. Patricia Johnson is presently directing the community development initiatives of I.P.S. The I.P.S. tagline is “Faith & Justice for the Common Good.”

I.P.S. Announces Honorary Co-Chairs
By Dr. Richard Gathro, Dean & Special Assistant to the President

Faculty Spotlight – Prof. George Hairston
Honoring Faculty for Academic Excellence
By Dr. Karen S. Fenton-LeShore, Faculty Chair

When we closely consider the essence of our core value of Academic Excellence it is difficult not to consider the wealth and excellence of our Faculty. It is without question that each of our faculty members exemplifies a high level of expertise, professionalism and commitment to Christ-centered education. Highlighted in this edition is one of our many “academically excellent” faculty members. Professor George Hairston is undoubtedly a jewel to both the faculty and the students of the DC Campus. Endearingly known as “Coach Hairston,” he markets our degree offerings and goes “above and beyond” by mentoring our students in matters relative to career and education.

He is a masterful professor of “Research Methods” and takes pride in ensuring our students embrace statistics to the degree of highest proficiency.

A College Degree is Not Enough
By Professor George Hairston, Director of Admissions & Marketing

Some individuals gain great job experience and work hard to earn a college degree, then become surprised and disappointed when they do not become successful in their career. The question is “why not?” Are the college degree and great job performance not sufficient to achieve success? In fact, it is not! In mathematics, there is a concept called “necessary, but insufficient conditions.” In that regard, a college degree and experience are often required and necessary to get a job or promotion, but they are not enough by themselves. In many cases, your success depends on how skilled you become in packaging and marketing yourself, and how effectively you “control” your interview process. In other words, you have to engage in a battle to capture success. You should create a strategy, develop and hone your skills, and fight to capture that gift that God has in store for you.

I have had the view that “success is waiting on us to capture it” for more than ten years, around the time that I founded a non-profit and named it “Success Warriors.” My view on this was recently re-enforced by a sermon I heard at a revival, entitled “The Paradox of God’s Gifting.” The Preacher said that God has a lot of gifts awaiting His people, but like the gift of “The Promised Land,” He still requires us to fight for the Promised Land that He is giving.

Are you willing to wage a high-intensity skills-development and marketing war for your success? If so, what might an effective war campaign look like?

Your career success war campaign should include at least the following: 1) a clearly written description of your vision for yourself (that is your career goal or destination); 2) a list of the job types and companies you will pursue (targets of your attack); 3) anticipated interview questions, with concise and ready answers, and with your plan of how you will “control” your interview process (preparation for hand-to-hand combat); and, 4) a plan to form alliances (career networking) with others who are willing to fight alongside you. In the latter regard, know that gaining success is not a zero-sum game, that when you get your fill of success, there is still an ocean of success remaining for the rest of us.

Remember, your success gift is there awaiting your capture! Are you ready to engage in the battle?
On June 26th men and women from the Washington, DC campus will walk across the stage as the 128th graduating class of Nyack College. Some will receive Bachelor’s degrees in Organizational Management and others will receive Master’s degrees in Organizational Leadership. I believe the founder of Nyack College, Dr. A.B. Simpson, would be proud of these graduates.

Diverse in their makeup, the class of 2010 includes men and women who have sacrificed family time and sleep, juggled class assignments and work deadlines, shared their sorrows and their joys, and gained new skills and knowledge. Each graduate is ready and equipped to be a change agent in his or her spheres of influence.

Yet more important than these factors is the heartbeat for serving others that resonates among the graduates. It is heard through the words of their theses and projects. Graduates examined issues including how to close the achievement gap amongst minority students, improve the capacity of faith-based institutions to serve the needy, and other topics.

Equipped with management and leadership skills to engage the culture effectively and with excellence, these graduates will be well prepared to influence the polarizing political and religious climate of the city of Washington, DC and indeed the nation. And, for most, these skills will be applied through the filter of Christ’s love.

Dr. A.B. Simpson’s 19th century vision to equip men and women to address the social and economic issues of the day with Christ’s message of redemption and restoration is being expressed in the 21st century through the graduates of the Washington, DC campus of Nyack College. Congratulations 2010 graduates!

Looking ahead to the fall, plans are underway for a fall networking lecture series on security, immigration, migration and socialization.

Our newest initiative is the Washington Semester Program. Beginning in January 2011, students from Nyack New York’s campus will have the opportunity to study social work, criminal justice, intercultural studies, business, history and other topics during a semester of study and internship here in D.C. This program will explore urban culture, examine civic responsibility, deepen the students’ understanding of Biblical worldview and develop students’ sense of career and calling. We want to train Nyack students to be active, biblically-based citizens in the public square.

Finally, a word to alumni. We are developing an alumni association! A working committee is being formed. We want to offer programming that assists you as alumni as you engage your world. From New York to Washington...Nyack is rising!
There are some people who go through life living with a giant weight on their shoulders. Such heaviness will hold them back and keep them from success. Then, there are other people who go through life rising above and refusing to let the storms of life keep them from their destiny. Virginia Harrison is one of those people.

Virginia came from a difficult childhood. Her father had told her growing up that she would never amount to anything. Virginia refused to believe these claims. In fact, she made it a point to prove her father wrong.

As Virginia moved into adulthood she was on a path destined for success. She attended college and earned degrees, and excelled in her endeavors. It wasn’t until Virginia tried to advance in her career that she realized the degrees she earned were not from regionally-accredited institutions. She was then faced with all the years and money spent on an education that she could not use to further her career. This left her with one decision, to go back to school, or just give up. It was around this time that Virginia crossed paths with Nyack College and joined Cohort 824 in the fall of 2007 to finish her Bachelor’s degree. Though she was faced with the choice to give up she realized, “I had to look at my future. I had to take charge of Virginia’s life. I was about to retire and I had a dream of teaching at the college level.” This meant Virginia certainly needed an accredited degree.

Just as in her previous academic endeavors, Virginia excelled in the OM program. She noted the distinctiveness of the program was in part because of the faculty who “believe in you, not just send assignments to you. Each one is very encouraging and a cheerleader for you,” she said.

Even with great encouragement, the OM program did bring its own challenges for Virginia to overcome. In the beginning of the program, she realized that she had a lot of extra credits to earn in order to graduate on time. With a determination to finish, Virginia took extra classes on the weekends from community colleges. Though it was overwhelming at times, Virginia learned a lot about herself, “I CAN do all things through Christ. And, my mother was right—you can do anything you put your mind to.”

Now, with an accredited Bachelor’s degree in hand, Virginia had decided that she was not going to pursue any further education. However, her dream of teaching at the college level still remained, and she could not reach that dream without a masters degree in hand as well. This dream motivated Virginia to join the MSOL program with cohort 811 in the Fall of 2009. Her rationale was, “it’s better to be in a position where you have the master’s degree even if you don’t need it—than to be in a place where you need it but you don’t have it.”

Now in the midst of her studies in the MSOL program Virginia continues to remind herself that she “has a purpose, and I’m almost near that goal line.”

Since joining MSOL, Virginia has since retired from her job with the federal government. She has recently written & published a book called “Let it Go”, an autobiographical look at how she has overcome a difficult childhood and risen above. She hopes that this book will help others who may have gone through similar situations.

Currently she is also working on training and equipping others within the area of leadership. She has facilitated workshops and leadership summits for churches and also hopes to assist corporations seeking leadership training. Now that she will have her Masters Degree in Organizational Leadership, she says “if I’m among clergy or church leaders I can use the same message. An organization is an organization.”

There is no doubt that Virginia is on a journey of destiny. From a difficult childhood to a life of victory, Virginia Harrison is on a mission. Her time at Nyack was a stepping stone that is now launching her into the next season of her life. While she nears the half-way mark to graduation from MSOL, she will be walking away with more than a degree. She can look back and see the accomplishment of not giving up, persevering, and reaching for the goal set before her.

“My mother was right – You can do anything you put your mind to.”
— Virginia Harrison